

Mountains of Blues

'lectric news



West Virginia
Blues Society

KEEPING THE BLUES ALIVE

"Mountains of Blues"

Thursday Aug 28th, 2008

Vol. 1, Issue 3

The WVBluesSociety (<http://wvbluessociety.org>) 'lectric bluzletter aka "Mountains of Blues in the Mountain State" is a semi-weekly newsletter of blues information in the Mountain State and beyond. Brought to you by the West Virginia Blues Society the "bluzletter" is a service to our "bluz friends" wherever you may be. Bluzletter is an attempt to CONNECT & INFORM of happenings in and at times outside our area. We never use your e-mail address without your consent, and no one has access to our e-mail list. If you know of someone who would like to receive our 'lectric bluzletter in the future let me know. If you do NOT want to receive any future updates please reply with, Please No More.

***BIRTHDAY:**

Aug 18 1922 Luther Allison Widener, AR
Aug 18 1928 Barkin' Bill Smith Cleveland, MS
Aug 19 1936 Little Johnny Christian Cleveland, MS
Aug 22 1923 Edward P Harris aka Carolina Slim Leasburg, NC
Aug 22 1931 Roscoe Shelton Lynchburg, TN
Aug 22 1917 John Lee Hooker Vance, MS

***RIP:**

Aug 15 1958 Big Bill Broonzy Chicago, IL

Aug 16 1977 Elvis Presley Memphis, TN
Aug 17 1984 Hammie Nixon Jackson, TN
Aug 19 1959 Blind Willie McTell Milledgeville, GA

*WHATS HAPPENIN' IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

*THANKS KEN BAYS & BLUES REVUE-

In case you might have missed it... Blues Revue magazine editor Ken Bays gave the West Virginia Blues Society some wonderful publicity last week. Ken writes his own column "Editor's Solo" in each issue and this time is was directed mainly at the WVBS and our efforts, and how these efforts can stand as examples to others. Ken along with BR have been very helpful and supportive to the WVBS over the past months and we can't thank them enough. The editorial office of Blues Revue (<http://www.bluesrevue.com>) is located in Salem, WV and was actually started just down the road in West Union, WV by Bob Vorel quite a few years ago. It has grown into the single biggest publication of its kind in the world. You make us proud Blues Revue, and we're happy if we have done something that you can be proud of too. Currently only about 1% of BR's subscribers are in West Virginia... we strongly encourage all WVBS members to subscribe or re-new your subscription to this homestate company. Please keep up the good work BR and we promise to do the same and "good blues to ya!"

*"DIAMOND TEETH MARY" McCLAIN-

Seems to be a very good thing what the WVBluesSociety has decided to do for "Diamond Teeth Mary" aka "Walkin' Mary" McClain. In return it certainly has placed a nice bright feather in the WVBS fedora. The "special day" honoring her this Sunday in Huntington has continually gained momentum as it nears. Even as time grows short, folks continue to come outa the woodwork to at least show their interest and moral support if not help in some way. Very nice to know indeed. This to me simply says it's only gonna continue to improve in the future. I think we as members and associates of the WVBS should be quite proud and hopefully even more can be done in the future.

In case you didn't know or have forgotten MARY McCLAIN was a native West Virginian. She began her performing career when Billie Holiday was in diapers and Robert Johnson was a toddler. Born either in Logan County or Huntington; probably never will know for sure. Never the less, she considered Huntington to be her home. She hopped a freight train from there in 1915 to escape a poor home life and see the world. And the rest as they say, is history. She played with most of the greats of her time and many of the greats of all time. She shared billings with her sister Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Sarah Vaughan, Big Mama Thornton, Ray Charles, Charlie Parker and Duke Ellington. She toured with the USO and sang at the Apollo Theater, the Smithsonian, and the White House. She also lived for a time with baseball great Satchel Paige and was present at the African American hospital (Riverside Hotel- <http://www.cathead.biz/riverside.html>) in Clarksdale, Mississippi when sister Bessie passed away in 1937.

not to be missed Sunday Aug 31st Ms Mary McClain will be honored in her hometown

of Huntington, WV at the V Club (http://www.vclublive.com/WV_BLUES_SOCIETY.html) located on the corner of 6th Ave & 8th St. Doors open at 4:00pm. WVBluesSociety Board member CHRIS SUTTON and C&S RAILROAD (<http://www.mountainblues.org>) will perform at 5:00pm along with members of the Huntington Harmonica Club. West Virginia governor the Honorable Joe Manchin will present a Proclamation as will Huntington Mayor David Felinton at 6:00pm. Mary's longtime friends LIZ PENNOCK & DR BLUES (<http://www.lizpennock.com>) will perform at 7:00pm with a possible after-jam following... see y'all there.

***APPALACHIAN BLUES COMPETITION-**

Time is running out. If you or someone you know is interested in competing in this years WVBluesSociety Appalachian Blues Competition you will need to act soon. The 2008 edition will be held in Fairmont at Christopher's Banquet Center on Oct 4th. All information can be found on the WVBS website at <http://wvbluessociety.org>

***BORDER STATES-**

<>9th Annual Columbus Blues Alliance "Blues Challenge" Sunday Sept 28th @ Whiskey Dick's. (<http://www.columbusblues.com/BC.htm>)

<>Baltimore Blues Society (<http://www.mojoworkin.com>) BILLY PRICE BAND @ Alonzo's Memorial Picnic, Rosedale, MD Sunday Aug 1st. "BBS Blues Challenge" Saturday Oct 11th

<>Blues, Jazz & Folk Music Society of Mid-Ohio Valley (<http://www.bjfm.org>) "Blues Competition" 2/20-21 2009. River City Blues Fest 3/20-21 2009 @ Lafayette Hotel, Marietta, OH

<>SunTrust Big Lick Blues Fest & Rib Cook-off Saturday Sept 20th, Elmwood Park, Roanoke, VA. Sponsored in part by the Blue Ridge Blues Society (<http://www.blueridgeblues.org>)

<>20th Annual DC Blues Festival is set for Saturday Aug 30th. FREE at the Carter Barron Amphitheater in Washington, DC from 12noon - 7:30pm (<http://www.dcblues.org>)

<>Kentuckiana Blues Society (<http://www.kbsblues.org>) "Blues Contest" Sept 28th at Stevie Ray's Blues Bar, Louisville, KY

***HELP FOR DUSTIN-**

Dustin Smith is the son of Jimi Vincent and drummer of Jimi Vincent Band from Mansfield, OH. He has been in a motorcycle accident and is now in intensive care in Columbus awaiting surgery. Friends and fans can help the family in their time of need. Donations can be made to: Ron See/Jimi Vincent, 868 Hover Rd. Mansfield, OH. 44905

update Sunday 8/24 from Sam Romagnoli

Surgery on Friday was scheduled to last about eight hours but took nearly twelve. Doctors found more damage than expected. Jimi said that Dustin looks better than he could ever imagined in light of all that has happened. The surgeon had to remove the wisdom teeth. All of the other teeth are intact. The doctors are waiting until Tuesday

(8/26) to see if they have to wire the jaw shut. Dustin is being kept under sedation for a couple days.

Jimi and family would like to thank everyone for the prayers, emails and all the love that has been sent their way during this crisis. Fox rock radio stations are planning a benefit concert to help with medical bills on Oct 18h in the Mansfield area. (thanks Sam)

**WVBluesSociety collected nearly \$100 for Dustin last week at Foothills Blues & Arts Festival. Thanks to those who donated.

*T-MODEL FORD-

It was reported to us a couple weeks ago while in Wheeling that Greenville, Mississippi native, T-MODEL FORD aka "Taildragger"

(<http://www.fatpossum.com/artists/tmodel.html>) was dealing with some health issues. Spider, HoodooBub and crawlinkingsnake saw him at Sarah's Kitchen in Clarksdale last April. Later that weekend I had a great time sitting beside T-Model while his grand-son, "STUD" played drums for ROBERT BELFORE. As T-Model says, "and that's for got damn sho!" Since I hadn't heard anymore about his health situation, I decided to some checking around. Went directly to "the source" for anything Mississippi; that of course being Roger Stolle of Cat Head Delta Music (<http://www.cathead.biz>). Roger says that two (now three) weeks ago T-Model had been in the hospital for about a week. Had a pacemaker implanted and is now taking medication for some blood clots in his legs. Right now he is home and doing better. There is a benefit for him on Thursday 8/28 at the Walnut Street Blues Bar (<http://www.deltablues.net/bait.html>) in Greenville. He says he plans on driving down for it and will know more after that. (thanks Roger)

*OLD TIME INFLUENCE-

Picked up Sept issue of "Americana Rhythm - Music Magazine" at The Purple Fiddle last week. Noticed an article by SCOTT PERRY (<http://www.ohpapa.com>). Scott is very active in the Floyd, VA area with blues and roots music. Events like the Blues Ridge Blues & BBQ Festival, Floyd Fest, The Pickin' Porch and much more. First saw Scott at The Court Street Grill what seems like years ago. Uh wait, it was years ago... Article titled "Old Time Influence" where he says old-time music today is becoming like 'folk' music did in the 60's... smoother more commercial. However more young people recognize this trend and are trying not to sound like it. Also African roots and other cultural influences are exposed more and people are open to more rustic sounds. (thanks Scott)

*SOMEWHERE NEAR HARRISONVILLE, OH-

The Foothills Blues & Arts Festival (<http://www.foothillsmusic.org>) was held last week "somewhere near Harrisonville, OH." This was the 2nd blues fest held in scenic Meigs County this year. New territory to me... had never been down Ohio Rt 143 or Mudfork Road. Their website had a number to call if ya got lost. But after dark, probably the best thing to do was look for the glow off Willie Pooch's suit. Awesome! Jarred Sheets, the Sheets family and the many volunteers had to have been happy with this weekend. Held

on the Sheets farm that covers over 500 acres of beautiful southeast Ohio country side. This was the 3rd year for the event and best so far. The crowd on Saturday seemed to be very good although never heard any numbers. Talked with people as far away as Dayton, OH and Keyser, WV. Favorite acts for me were JOHNNY & DESTINY RAWLS, RAY FULLER w/WILLIE POOCH, BOB MARGOLIN and of course IZZY & CHRIS. Congrats to all those who worked hard to pull this event off and lookin' forward to 2009!

*THIS WEEKEND IN "MOUNTAINS OF BLUES":

*Friday Aug 29th:

Dennis McClung Blues Band- Black Bear Tavern, McHenry, MD
Ms Freddy & Blue Faze- Roadworthy Restaurant & Tavern, West Liberty, WV
Liz Pennock & Dr Blues- The Brewery, Marietta, OH
The Catch Blues Band- Mountaineer Bar & Grill, Wheeling
Strange Brew- Chic N Bones, Morgantown
Indigenous- Rex Theater, Pittsburgh

*Saturday Aug 30th:

Cracker Stackwell- Black Bear, Morgantown
Sue Foley & Peter Karp- The Purple Fiddle, Thomas, WV
Norm Nardini- Roadworthy Restaurant & Tavern, West Liberty, WV
Sam Lamont- String Swing, Friendly, WV
Mahajibee Blues- Renziehausen Park, McKeesport, PA
Izzy & Chris- Chimney Corner USA, Ansted, WV
Diablo Blues Band- The Empty Glass, Charleston
Ms Freddy & Blue Faze- The Hop House, Carnegie, PA

*Sunday Aug 31st:

"Diamond Teeth Mary" McClain Day- The V Club, Huntington
Janiva Magness [Mountain Stage]- Cultural Center Theater, Charleston
Lady D- Greenbrier Valley Theater, Lewisburg, WV

*"MOUNTAINS OF BLUES" AT A GLANCE:

*Wed 8/27:

PAM ROBERTS @ El Gran Sabor, Elkins, WV
JASON RICCI & NEW BLOOD @ Moondogs, Blawnox, PA
open-mic w/CRACKER STACKWELL @ Blue Moose Cafe, Morgantown

*Thur 8/28: SCOTT PERRY @ Blue 5 Restaurant, Roanoke, VA

*"support your local juke joint!" Court Street Grill (<http://www.courtstreetgrill.com>)
Fri 8/29 RANDY McALLISTER Texas singer/songwriter

Wed 9/17 MONTE MONTGOMERY guitar virtuoso

Fri 9/19 DENNIS GRUENLING, STEVE GUYGER & DOUG DEMING "Little Walter Tribute"

Wed 10/8 PAUL GEREMIA acoustic blues legend

wED 10/22 Moanin' MICHELLE MALONE

*...ain't but 2 reasons to go into a jook joint, either cause ya feel good or ya feel bad...

*SUE FOLEY (<http://www.suefoley.com>) with PETER KARP

(<http://www.myspace.com/peterkarp>) should be great @ The Purple Fiddle

(<http://www.purplefiddle.com>) this Saturday 8/30... be sure to try the jalapeno/turkey wrap with an Anchor Summer Beer...

*word from ROY BOOK BINDER (<http://www.roybookbinder.com>) '09 workshops scheduled for Jan 12-16 @ Fur Peace Ranch (on the road) Miracle Springs Resort, Desert Hot Springs, CA; May 1-4 Fur Peach Ranch (<http://www.furpeaceranch.com>), Pomeroy; Oct 16-19 Fur Peace Ranch, Pomeroy... interested persons are advised to sign up early as class size is limited... check out "the Book" in discussion of PINK ANDERSON from 1987 at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNIFhRI3DZk>

*since we mention PINK ANDERSON (<http://www.wirz.de/music/andepfrm.htm>)

wouldn't hardly seem right not to say something about FLOYD COUNCIL

(<http://www.wirz.de/music/councfrm.htm>) right on along with him... also great site for many other Piedmont Blues artists at

<http://facstaff.unca.edu/sinclair/piedmontblues/Default.htm...> and how about some "LITTLE PINK" ANDERSON at <http://littlepink.20m.com>

*Officials of "Memphis International Airport" say they probably won't change the airport's name to honor the late singer ISAAC HAYES... at a memorial service for Hayes, U.S. Rep. Steve Cohen publicly suggested changing the name of the airport... Airport board chairman Arnold Perl said Hayes was a great ambassador for Memphis, but the current airport name best serves the city's needs. Hayes died Aug 10th of an apparent stroke at age 65. (blueswax)

*don't y'all forget now... if you get yerself up into northeast Ooo-hi-ooo this weekend... be sure to check out the "Broadside of the Barn"

(<http://www.mikesbarn.com/broadside.html>) somewhere out in the Hinterlands southwest of Cleveland?

*attn Mike of THE CATCH BLUES BAND... please list on the website location of the venues the band is playing... thanks- crawlinkingsnake

*next week:

Sept 6th C&S RAILROAD @ Pocahontas County Opera House, Marlinton

Sept 4-5-6 Carnegie Arts & Heritage Fest (<http://www.carnegieartsandheritage.com>)
Sat Sept 6th DENNIS McCLUNG BLUES BAND @ WV Black Heritage Festival
(<http://www.wvblackheritagefestival.com/gpage.html>), Clarksburg

*two weeks;

Sept 13th BILLY PRICE BAND @ Wine & Jazz Fest (<http://www.wwineandjazz.com>),
Morgantown

Sept 13th Ruf Records Blues Caravan w/CANDYE KANE, DEBORAH COLEMAN & DANI
WILDE @ The Ellington (<http://www.theellington.org>), Lynchburg VA

in a little bit,
crawlinkingsnake